

BROOKLYN CITIZENS FOR A GREATER NEW YORK.

IN FAVOR OF CONSOLIDATION.

Citizens of Three Localities in Brooklyn Give Their Opinions.

The Journal's Canvass Shows a Decided Majority for Greater New York.

Views of Representatives of the Wealthy, Moderately Wealthy and Working Classes.

VERY FEW FAVOR RESUBMISSION.

Question of the Tax Rate is an Important One to All—Consolidation Will Bring Rapid Transit and More Bridges.

IN a canvass of three blocks of Brooklyn residences, representing three classes—the wealthy, the men of moderate means and the thrifty workingmen—the opinions of representative citizens on the question of consolidation have been obtained. The large majority were in favor of a Greater New York.

Of sixteen who were not in favor of consolidation, four thought the question should be submitted to a vote of the people, and they were not ready to state how they would vote. Twelve were opposed to consolidation and expressed the hope that it would be defeated either in the Legislature or by a vote of the people to be again provided for.

These views, thoroughly representative, because they were from men in all stations in life, were given in nearly every instance without hesitation and in a way to indicate that the question has been thoroughly studied. Their familiarity with the questions at issue was the best refutation of the assertion that Brooklynites are uninterested in the result. By those who opposed the creation of a Greater New York the chief argument was that if Brooklyn were to become a part of the great metropolis it would be but a suburb, receiving little attention in the making of improvements and small representation in the city government. The advocates of consolidation maintained that by consolidation taxation would be reduced, improvements would be more easily obtained, the city government would be better and Chicago would be forever eclipsed.

The block selected for the canvass of the homes of the wealthy was Clinton avenue, between De Kalb and Willoughby avenues. To get the views of

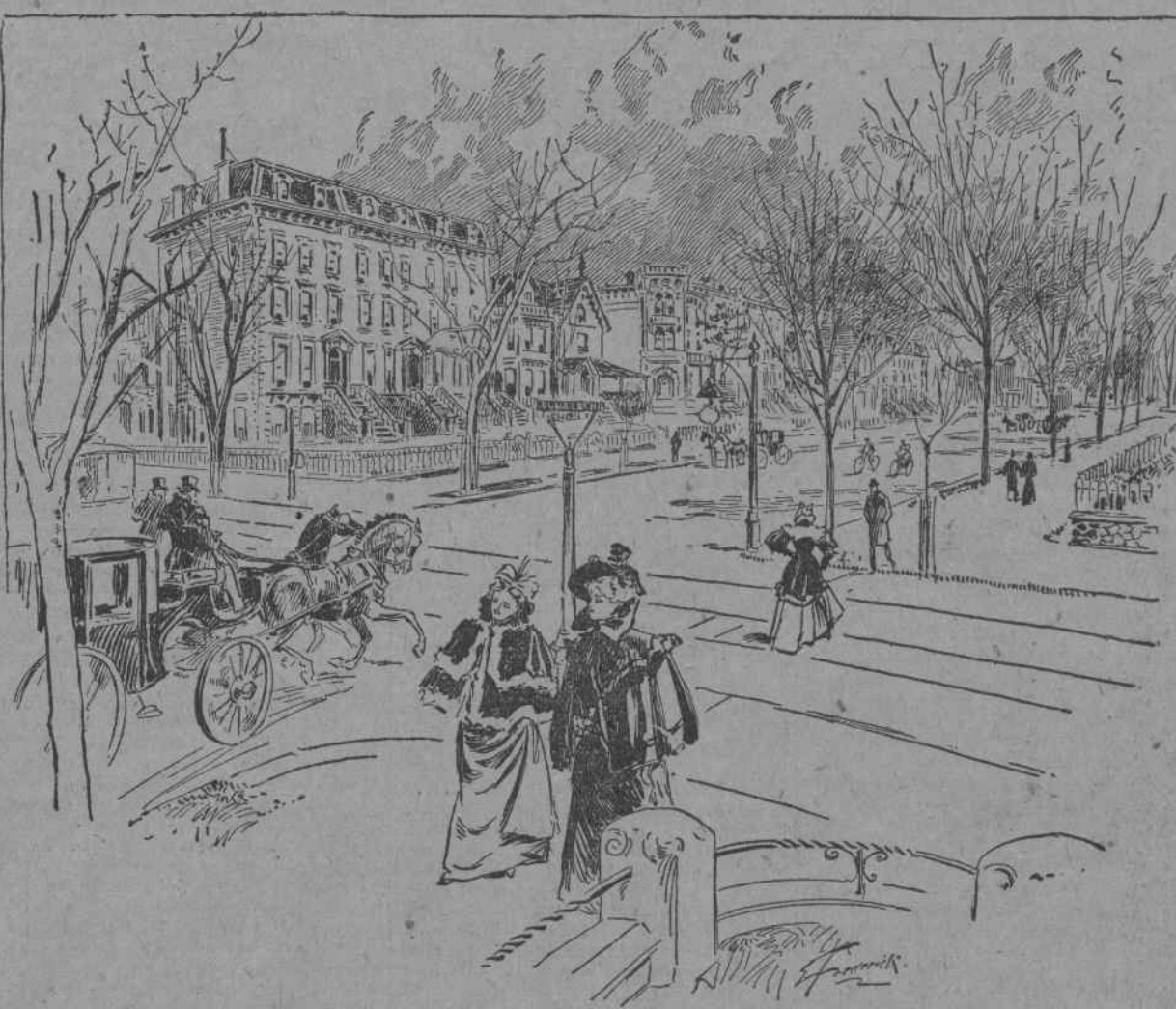
dationists are, as a rule, men who have some political or other end to gain by keeping Brooklyn a city all by herself. As soon as Brooklyn becomes a part of the Greater New York there will be a boom in real estate and in business generally over here.

F. B. Schenck, No. 288 Clinton avenue, cashier of the Mercantile National Bank, this city: I am in favor of resubmitting to the people the question of consolidation. But before the vote is taken I think it would be advisable for a committee, especially appointed for the purpose, to carefully consider and, if possible, devise some plan for overcoming the important legal objections that have been presented to consolidation. This committee should outline clearly and in detail the plan of consolidation upon which the people are to vote. As the matter stands now, I am virtually neutral. A plan for gradually bringing the cities together would be practicable, I think. Certain city departments might be consolidated this year and certain others next year, and so on; then, when the proper time comes, the final move could be made without any great disturbance among the city officials or in business circles.

John W. Hunter, No. 284 Clinton avenue, ex-Mayor of Brooklyn: I am not in favor of consolidation, and if this question is resubmitted to the people it will be clearly shown that the majority of Brooklyn's citizens are also opposed to it. In years to come, when the cities have been made geographically one by many connecting bridges over the East River, the people of the two cities will most likely decide to have one government. But as the cities are now divided consolidation is impracticable.

Ashton Green, No. 274 Clinton avenue, manufacturer at No. 83 Chambers street, this city: I favor consolidation because it would be for the glory of New York. It would give the metropolis more prestige in all parts of the world, and that is of undoubted advantage in business. Personally I do not care whether my post office address is New York or Brooklyn, but there is no use ignoring the fact, sentiment governs a great many, and for that reason many would move to this side of the East River after consolidation who now remain on the other side because they want to live in Gotham. If all the territory it is proposed to combine were in one city it would be a natural result that the cost of government per capita would be decreased. Consolidation is logical and common sense.

Milton B. Beiden, No. 272 Clinton avenue, dealer in paper at No. 241 West Broadway, this city: Consolidation should be brought about by the present Legislature. The demand for resubmission is but a play for delay. There was one vote, and that is enough to be taken on any question. It is the duty of the Legislature, because of that vote, to consolidate the cities. The ad-



CLINTON AVENUE—BROOKLYN'S ARISTOCRATIC SECTION.

streets and that it would be of advantage to Brooklynites to live in the city in which they are engaged in business.

ON CARLTON AVENUE

Men of More Moderate Means Give Their Opinions.

Henry Russell, No. 555 Carlton avenue, proprietor of a printing establishment in this city: I am in favor of consolidation because I think that so long as we have our business in one city and our lodgings in another we will never have that municipal pride that every man should have. By having our interests divided we lose all interest. Then there is the additional reason that if the cities were united there would soon be new bridges built. Streets should be continuous from the extremity of Brooklyn to the extremity of New York, but they never will be until one municipality sees the necessity of bringing its separate localities closer together.

John H. Hanley, No. 557 Carlton avenue, fruit importer in this city: I favor consolidation both for sentimental and business reasons. The sentimental reason is that we have got to hustle to keep ahead of Chicago. We

would profit by the proposed combination.

Philip J. McEvoy, No. 561 Carlton avenue, employed in the dry goods establishment of Journeay & Burnham, Brooklyn: Why, of course, I am for consolidation, and so is every man who has studied the question, unless he has personal interests at stake. I am tired hearing this talk that consolidation would increase rents in Brooklyn. Rents are regulated by the law of supply and demand, and the empty flats and houses and the vacant lots in Brooklyn are proof that it will be a long time before rents can be increased.

G. A. Whalberg, No. 567 Carlton avenue, manufacturer of stairs: I am in favor of a resubmission of the question to a popular vote. The first vote was so small it cannot be taken as an expression of the will of the people. In a matter of this kind the people themselves, not their representatives at Albany, should decide, so they should have a chance to vote again. I cannot say whether I am for consolidation or not; I am studying the question.

J. W. O'Donnell, No. 569 Carlton avenue, tea and coffee dealer at No. 137 Front street, this city: I am in favor of consolidation chiefly because it is so handy to have two city governments. My interests are in New York, but because I live in Brooklyn New York officials regard me practically as a foreigner.

Florence Hertzberg, No. 571 Carlton avenue, cashier and book keeper at No. 17 South Williams street, this city: I favor consolidation because it would be to the advantage of New York as well as Brooklyn. The cities have the same interests and there is no earthly reason why they should have separate city governments. There is a question of pride in it, too, for there is no denying that there would be more prestige in living in a city like the Greater New York than in living in Brooklyn.

WHAT TOILERS THINK

The Result of the Canvass Made on Halsey Street.

John D. Heimkin, grocer, corner Halsey street and Bushwick avenue: I believe the two cities should be consolidated, but I also believe the question should be again submitted to a popular vote again. The last test was not a fair one. Very few voters thought seriously of what they were voting for, but now that the question has been agitated to such an extent the mass of the people will be better prepared to vote intelligently on it. I never thought of this question seriously until that Legislative Committee has been holding sessions here.

James Curtis, clerk, No. 1037 Halsey street: I am for consolidation. Brooklyn would not be here if it was not for New York—she is a part of New York practically, and should be made so in reality. We ought to have one great big city, all under one government, and after the consolidation is effected it will not be long before Greater New York will be the largest city in the world.

I. W. Pace, No. 1037 Halsey street: There is no use voting on this question again. Consolidation has been carried once and that should settle it. I believe it would be the best thing that could happen to Brooklyn. More people would come over here to live, and real rapid transit would come as a matter of necessity.

William Ryder, carpenter, No. 1039 Halsey street: It will do no harm to submit the question of consolidation to the people again. A big vote will be polled on the question next time, for everybody is interested in the subject now. I will vote for consolidation, and have no fear but that a majority of the voters will do the same thing.

C. H. RUBIN, cutter, No. 1049 Halsey street:

I am in favor of consolidating the cities, and whether the question is voted on again or not, Brooklyn and the other cities over here are bound to become a part of New York sooner or later. Aside from any business advantages that would be brought about the cities would be much better governed if they were under the control of one set of officials. New York cannot grow much further north unless a system of rapid transit is constructed. Thousands of people who will not live over here now would make a rush for homes here if this was a part of New York.

CHARLES A. BELKNAP, No. 1049 Halsey street: I don't believe in voting on the question of consolidation again. The cities should be made one as soon as possible. Everything is to be gained by it and nothing is to be lost. Brooklyn will grow more rapidly when she becomes a part of New York and the boom in real estate will help every kind of business.

EDWARD WARFIELD, SALESMAN, No. 1051 Halsey street: I think the question should be voted on again. There is no great hurry about the matter, and the people should have a chance to thoroughly understand what they are voting on. The cities should not be consolidated

THE long pent-up soreness and resentment of the Brooklyn anti-consolidationists found an outlet yesterday when their arch-champion, Wm. Redfield, addressed the joint sub-committee of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Cities. That committee held another session in Part IV., Supreme Court, Brooklyn, at the urgent request of the Loyal League of Brooklyn Citizens, who wanted a last chance to argue against consolidation.

Mr. Redfield began his remarks by denying the statement that the Loyal League had spent \$250,000 in working up a sentiment against consolidation. He said that no fees had been paid to its lawyers or to the men who had worked in its interest at Albany. He contradicted statements which had been presented by the other side.

"The list of merchants presented to your committee," said he, "is not representative in character. Of the eighty-four signatures to that petition twenty-four are names not in the mercantile agency lists. Ten of our largest concerns are not represented in that petition."

"The statement that no considerable sentiment is against consolidation in Brooklyn is disproved by the list we have submitted to you of 72,800 names on our roll. Of our representatives at Albany fifty-seven of the sixty-one are agreed in favor of submission. They represent all parties. It was not a party issue that elected or defeated the candidates last Fall. The consolidation issue was fought at the time the nominations were made, and that's Senatorial nomination in his district. 'I was not beaten,' interrupted Mr. Linton. The chairman properly declined to hear Mr. Linton at that point. Mr. Linton said subsequently that his district, the Ninth, had given a majority of 1,824 votes for consolidation in 1894.

"Where in the history of this country," continued Mr. Redfield, "has a small majority of 277 votes decided so important a matter?" Senator Grady—What guarantee have we that a vote on this question in 1896 would be any more of a similarity than the vote of 1894? What would prevent the consolidationists from demanding a third vote should they vote in 1894? "If the opposition could prove the righteousness of a third vote, why should they not have it?" was Mr. Redfield's rejoinder. Then he drifted back to the members of the Consolidation Commission, and stated that few Brooklynites knew who their representatives on that Commission were. Chairman Lexow—Doesn't that indicate a laxity of interest in the subject? Mr. Linton and Mr. Stranahan have been leaders in this consolidation movement for five years.

THE CHALLENGE. Then Mr. Redfield, pointing his long finger at the chairman and other members of the committee successively, yelled:

"Do you know the names of the members of the committee, or you, or you, or you?" Mr. Redfield became more and more excited. The blood rushed up to his cheeks, and his eyes sparkled under his spectacles. Trembling in every joint, he shouted:

"If you would ask the people who are attempting to destroy Brooklyn they would answer, 'Lexow!'" The chairman's gavel fell on the desk. He eyed the speaker keenly for a moment, a stillness pervading the room. Slowly and without anger in his voice, but with subdued force, Mr. Lexow said:

"You have absolutely no business or authority to make any such statement. It is not becoming your situation as a speaker for the Anti-Consolidation League, and you certainly do not either add weight to your arguments, or show yourself possessed of the qualities of a gentleman in making any such statement."

"For myself I can only say that as chairman of this committee, I am paying more than usual attention to the speakers, and will decide the question, as far as I am concerned, on the merits."

An unbroken applause followed that repeated raps of the gavel failed to quell.

NO GENTLEMAN, SAID MR. LEXOW.

Redfield Had Said the Chairman Was Trying to Destroy Brooklyn.

And the President of the Loyal League Would Not Say That He Was Sorry.

Talked in a Loud Voice and Shook a Long Finger in the Faces of the Committee-men.

LIVELY DIALOGUES ALL THE DAY.

Ex-Congressman Coombs, S. L. Woodhouse, Albert G. McDonald, Nelson D. Carman and Others Took Part in the Greater New York Discussion.

Finally passed to Mr. Coombs's side, and gave him a most decided wink. But the latter ignored it and kept on talking for another ten minutes.

After S. L. Woodhouse, a proselyte from the consolidation camp, had pleaded for the privileges of a referendum, Corporation Counsel A. G. McDonald said that the question was a people's question. If a resubmission of the primary question was not granted at least a submission of the details of the proposed consolidation should be.

During the afternoon session Mr. Matthews read letters of regret from C. N. Bliss and Edwin Knowles, and introduced Nelson D. Carman.

ANTI-PROGRESSIVE MINORITY.

"I don't know the object of your committee's visit," said he. "Mr. Beckus said the other day that it was to feel the pulse of the people. Any good-looking legislative committee, well advertised, could fill this court room. But it would go away no wiser than it came. On the one side in this case you have the professional and sentimental arguments of lawyers and ministers, and on the other the pleas of large mercantile, banking and industrial interests. Dr. Cuyler spoke about the attempt at civic assassination of Brooklyn. There has always been an active minority in opposition to all progress in this city. It is valuable in that it brings out the real necessity for improvement."

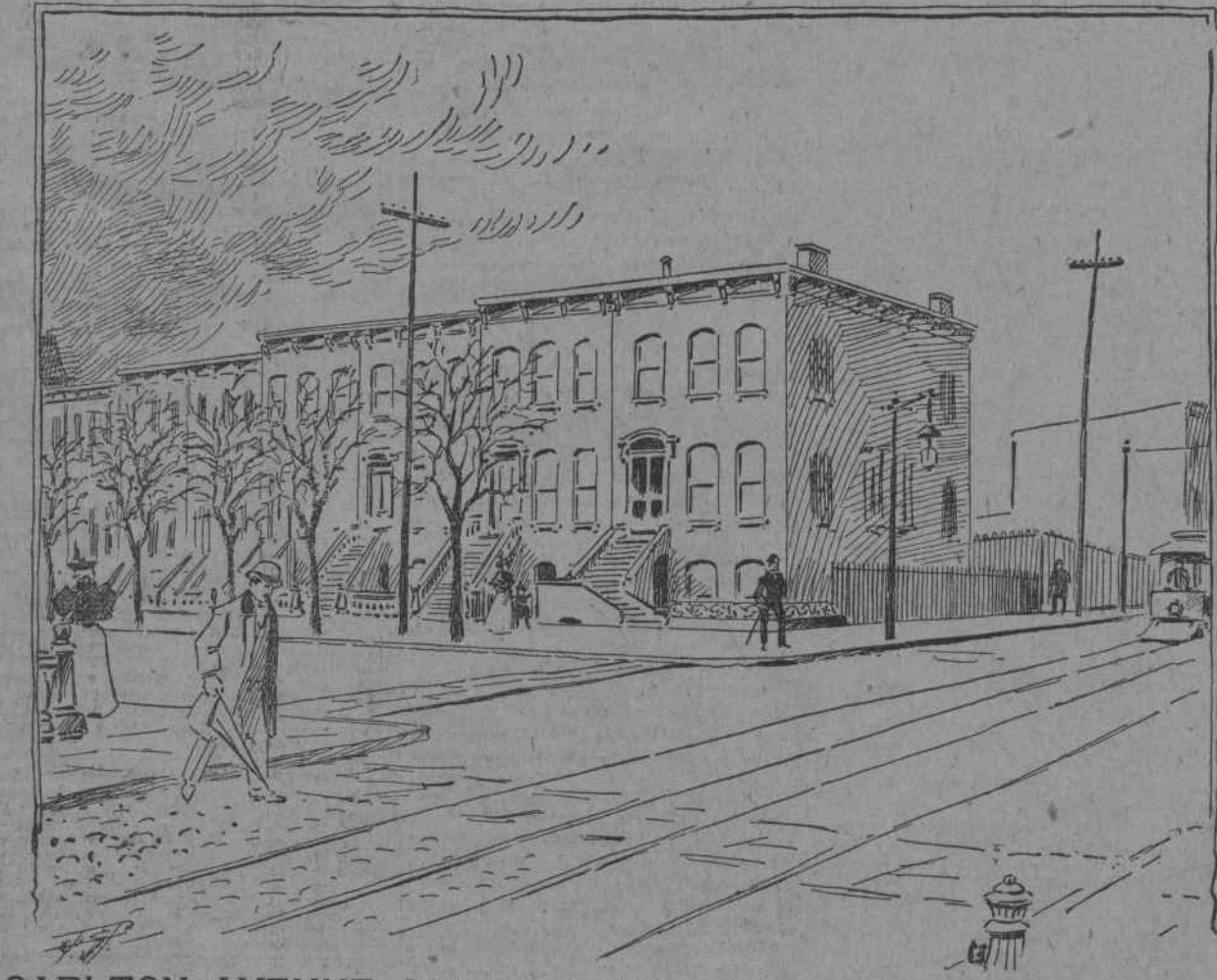
Ex-Fish Commissioner Eugene G. Blackford, president of the Bedford Bank, said of the two thousand depositors of his bank he rarely finds one opposed to consolidation, and of his forty-four stockholders only two are opposed, and they are fair and sane. He said that he believed every interests would be greatly improved in Brooklyn the moment consolidation assured.

Percey D. Williams, an amateur actor the Amaranth Soci., told of his experiences in real estate speculation in Brooklyn. "We and here," he said, "that is absolutely no demand, a real estate. Not one house in one hundred is sold for the price paid for it."

M. J. McGrath argued against delay, and said that Brooklyn needed consolidation with New York more than any of the little country towns.

H. H. Hubbard spoke of the effect of the Bridge in building up Brooklyn, and incidentally had a tilt with Senator Grady. The enlightening feature of the afternoon session was the talk of Charles Commissioner John H. Burris. He spoke in a clear, robust voice.

"Brooklyn is a fine place," said he, "to eat and sleep in, and when we are dead



CARLTON AVENUE—WHERE MEN OF MODERATE MEANS LIVE.

the moderately successful citizen, a canvass was made of the east side of Carlton avenue, between Bergen and Dean streets. The third selection was in Halsey street, between Bushwick and Evergreen avenues.

VIEWS OF RICH MEN.

Clinton Avenue Residents Discuss Consolidation.

Dr. Dominick G. Bodkin, No. 290 Clinton avenue: I am heartily in favor of consolidation, and am opposed to any further delay in the matter. I think the sooner New York, Brooklyn and the smaller cities and towns about them are made one municipality the better it will be for all concerned. There is no necessity of submitting the question to the people again. It has already been voted on, and the resubmission will simply cause delay, for consolidation is sure to come in the end. Every resident of this city who has at heart the interest of the whole community is, I believe, in favor of consolidation. The bitterest anti-consolidationists are, as a rule, men who have some political or other end to gain by keeping Brooklyn a city all by herself. As soon as Brooklyn becomes a part of the Greater New York there will be a boom in real estate and in business generally over here.

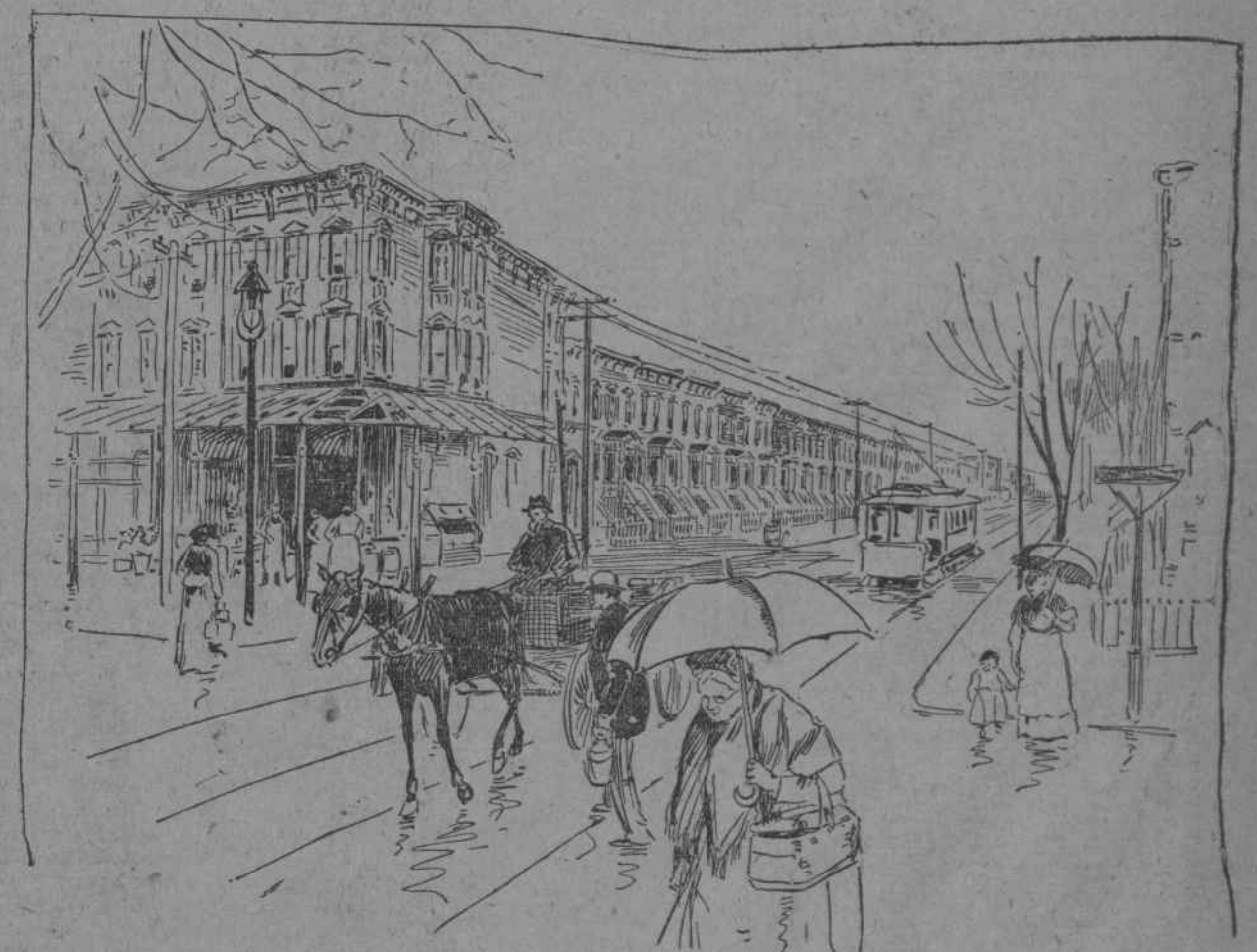
advantages of a greater city are apparent to every one.

W. E. Leach, No. 270 Clinton avenue, merchant at No. 270 Pine street, this city: I have been a Brooklynite all my life, but I want to become a New Yorker now. This talk of sentiment standing in the way of consolidation is nonsense. Let the cities unite as soon as the proper action can be taken.

Stephen P. Cox, No. 268 Clinton avenue, jeweller at No. 26 John street, this city: I voted for consolidation and have never regretted doing so. Others had the same chance to express their opinions, so why should they be given another chance? If the vote was small it was the fault of the people themselves, and the majority, however small, should rule.

John Joseph Atkinson, No. 557 Carlton avenue, employed in the dry goods trade in this city: I favor consolidation for the reasons that must be apparent to all Brooklynites who have made a study of the question. There is no necessity for delay. Consolidate now and be done with it.

W. W. Basson, No. 559 Carlton avenue, bookkeeper: I am against consolidation because a Greater New York would give the politicians too much sway. They have enough opportunities now; too many, in fact, and a big city like New York would be, with all the territory it is proposed to take in, would be giving them too big chances for crooked work. Besides, I don't see how Brooklyn



HALSEY STREET—THE HOMES OF PROSPEROUS WORKINGMEN

until all the people have had a chance to vote fairly on the question.

WILLIAM FRAZIER, No. 1051 Halsey street: This question should be resubmitted to the people. Only about one-third of the voters voted on the question last time. Some of them didn't know what they were voting for, and the majority of those who didn't vote thought so little of the question that they forgot all about it on election day. I didn't vote on the question because I didn't think of it. If it comes to another vote two-thirds of the people in this city will be against consolidation.

THEODORE HOCH, MUSICIAN, No. 1055 Halsey street: So far as making the places into one big city is concerned I am in favor of that. It would be a grand thing. But I am not so sure about the advantages they say Brooklyn will get from the consolidation. I think the question should be voted on again, and that the people should have time to study the question several months before they vote on it.

When it had ceased Mr. Redfield returned to the attack. He said:

"It is not within the jurisdiction of this committee to determine my qualifications as a gentleman. I may have been wrong in saying what I did, but the reasons for it remain just the same."

Chairman Lexow addressed no further word to Mr. Redfield during the rest of his talk. Previous to Mr. Redfield's outburst he had introduced ex-Congressman William J. Coombs, who is president of the newly organized Manufacturers' Trust Company. Said he:

"I am not come here as president of the company. Companies do not take action in such matters, and I am surprised that the petition handed to you was signed by officers of other banks without the authority of the stockholders."

Chairman Lexow—Do you think that reputable bank officers would take such a step without believing that their stockholders would indorse them? Mr. Coombs—They might act without thinking. Mr. Coombs then suggested that if those bank officers had such authority from their stockholders they might file it with the committee.

MR. REDFIELD'S WINK.

Mr. Coombs said that Greater New York would be the largest city in the world under one government, and the people here had not the necessary experience to control it properly. After he had been talking twenty minutes Mr. Redfield began to get nervous. He walked up and down and

to be buried in. We have more cemeteries conveniently located than you'll find in any city in the world. The people voted for consolidation."

Senator Brush—One district gave 500 majority against consolidation.

WOULDN'T DO IT AGAIN. Mr. Burris—Yes, yes; but they wouldn't do it again, and don't you forget it. I was a member of the Legislature that voted to submit this question to the people, for which you, Mr. Chairman, voted, too, like an honest man. And the people indorsed it."

Senator Brush—Don't you know that there are over 10,000 manufacturing concerns in Brooklyn?

Mr. Burris—Ought to be 10,000 more. Senator Brush—There is \$200,000,000 invested in these concerns.

Mr. Burris—Yes, I know all that. Senator Brush—One-ninth of the entire population is engaged in these concerns. Mr. Burris—Yes, a lot more live over in Brownsville. We want new schools, new bridges, new streets, and how are we going to get them? We are now taxed up to the limit. Unite the two great cities and solve the whole problem.

Ex-Judge A. B. Dalley and J. Lett Nowland brought the session to a close. Mr. Dalley said that if New York is as wise as it is painted, Brooklynites can go over and help Brother Parkhurst make it better. The hearing will be resumed at 11 a. m. to-day in the Court House, Brooklyn.